

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:
 - a first television display in a first home;
 - the first television display having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media;
 - a first storage, in the first home, that stores the media;
 - the first storage supporting consumption of the media by the first television display, and having a first network address with respect to a first user at the first home;
 - a second television display in a second home;
 - the second television display having an associated second set of options governing the consumption of media;
 - a second storage, in the second home, that stores the media;
 - the second storage supporting consumption of the media by the second television display, and having a second network address with respect to a second user at the second home, wherein the second user is known to the first user; and
- server software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network addresses, receives, via a communication network, a request that identifies one or more of the associated first or second network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first or second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and

server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies one of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying another of the associated first, second, and or third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes one or both of human speech and/or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the server software functions to perform one or both of the storage and/or delivery of media.

13. (Currently amended) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

a television display in a first home;

a first storage that stores the media, in the first home, the first storage communicatively coupled to the television display, and having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media, and a first network address with respect to a first user at the first home;

set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to the first storage to support consumption of media;

a personal computer monitor in a second home;

a second storage that stores the media, in the second home, the second storage communicatively coupled to the personal computer monitor, and having an associated second set of options governing the consumption of media, and a second network address with respect to a second user at the second home, wherein the second user is know to the first user;

personal computer circuitry, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage to support consumption of media; and

server software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network addresses, receives via a communication network a request that identifies one or more of the associated first or second network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first or second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising:
a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and

server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies one of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying another of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes one or both of human speech and/or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the server software functions to perform one or both of the storage and delivery of media.

25. (Previously presented) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

a storage for storing media;

set top box circuitry supporting the consumption of media via a communication network, the set top box circuitry communicatively coupled to the storage, and having an associated set of options governing the consumption of media;

a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network; and
server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request, and responds by enabling the management of the associated set of options governing the consumption of media.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a

digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

27. (Previously presented) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry supporting consumption of media via a communication network, the set top box circuitry having an associated set of options governing the consumption of media; and

server software that receives from a telephone voice response system a request, and responds by enabling management of the associated set of options governing the consumption of media.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the associated set of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device

address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes one or both of human speech and/or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the server software functions to perform one or both of the storage and/or delivery of media.

37. (Currently amended) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry, in a first home, communicatively coupled to a first storage in the first home, the first storage having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media and a first network address, with respect to a first user at the first home, to support consumption of media using a television display in the first home;

circuitry, in a second home, communicatively coupled to a second storage, the second storage having an associated second set of options governing the consumption of media and a second network address, with respect to a second user at the second home, wherein the second user is known to the first user, to support consumption of media using a computer or other monitor or display in the second home; and

software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network addresses, receives via a communication network a request that identifies one or more of the associated first or second network addresses, a user identifier, and/or authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first or second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

45. (Currently amended) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

a first television display, in a first home, communicatively coupled to a first storage in the first home, the first storage having a first network address with respect to a first user at the first home, the first television display having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media;

a second television display, in a second home, communicatively coupled to a second storage in the second home, the second storage having a first second network address with respect to a second user at the second home, wherein the second user is known to the first user,

the second television display having an associated first set of options governing the consumption of media;

software that maintains a user defined association of the first and second network addresses, receives via a communication network a request that identifies one or more of the associated first or second network addresses, a user identifier, and/or authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first or second network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

46. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

47. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 51 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

54. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 further comprising:
a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and
server software that receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies one of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying another of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

55. (Previously presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes one or both of human speech and/or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

56. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the server software functions to perform one or both of the storage and/or delivery of media.

57. (Currently amended) A system supporting the remote management of options related to media consumption, the system comprising:

at least one processor that maintains a user defined association of first and second network addresses of first and second users, respectively, at first and second locations, respectively, wherein the first and second users are known to one another, the at least one processor receives via a communication network a request that identifies one or more of the associated first or second network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first or second network addresses, to support management of one or both of first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

58. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and/or data.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein each of the associated first and second sets of options governing the consumption of media comprise one or more of a media schedule, a device address, a device identifier, billing information, tracking information, channel setup information, program setup information, digital rights management information, media caching information, media storage information, media filter information, a user profile, and/or pay-per-view event information.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 63 wherein the media filter information comprises one or more of an industry rating, a program time, a language, content information, and/or a personal program preference.

65. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein management comprises one or more of observing, setting, modifying, deleting, registering, authenticating, and/or determining authority.

66. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 further comprising:
a telephone voice response system for receiving user input via a telephone network, and having an associated third network address; and

the at least one processor receives from the telephone voice response system a request that identifies one of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, a user identifier, and authorization information, and responds by identifying another of the associated first, second, or third network addresses, to support management of one of the associated first or second sets of options governing the consumption of media.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66 wherein the telephone voice response system recognizes one or both of human speech and/or dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signals.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the at least one processor functions to perform one or both of storage and delivery of media.